

HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARCHITECTURAL

1. Does OSHPD allow the use of modular toilet/sink combination units in health care facilities?

The 2001 California Building Code (CBC) does not allow the use of modular toilet/sink combination units in hospitals or skilled nursing facilities; however, the 2007 CBC allows the use of modular toilet/sink combinations units in Intensive Care Units. The 2007 CBC states that the toilet fixture must be completely contained within cabinetry when not in use and the exhaust ventilation requirements must comply with the California Mechanical Code. It is anticipated that the 2007 CBC will become effective in January 2008. Until the 2007 CBC becomes effective, OSHPD will allow compliance with the 2007 CBC requirements for modular toilet/sink combination units as an Alternate Method of Compliance / Program Flexibility. Please refer to OSHPD's final express terms for Part 2, 2007 CBC at: www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CodeInfo.htm.

2. What are the requirements for Electronic Medical Records (EMR) in health care facilities?

California Building Code, Section 420A.21.2 requires that hospitals provide a health record service as part of its support services. A work area for sorting and recording medical records and a storage area for the records are required. Compliance with these requirements is required for paper records and electronic media records. The work area and storage area for records must be indicated on the construction plans for OSHPD review.

Active and inactive medical records may be located off-site if approved by the Department of Health Services. Medical record availability requirements are found in Section 70751 (f) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations which states: *"Medical records shall be filed in an easily accessible manner in the hospital or in an approved medical record storage facility off the hospital premises."* The Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification (L&C) is authorized to approve the "off-site" storage of medical records, whether the records are active or inactive. For new construction or a relevant remodeling project, OSHPD must receive a copy of the L&C approval letter if the electronic medical records system is "off the hospital premises". If the EMR computer server is located in the hospital, OSHPD must review the server location, anchorage, fire and life safety requirements, mechanical requirements, and electrical requirements.